

From: Ed Wahl
To: Pamela Creedon
Date: 2/2/2009 11:30 AM
Subject: Rubicon Trail

Ms. Creedon,

Thank you so much for taking on the problem of sediment erosion associated with the Rubicon Trail. This has been a problem for quite a long time. The amount of material that has eroded into the waterways and lakes up there is really staggering. I knew that when you Water Quality Control people finally got a good look at what was happening it would finally be addressed.

There are many, many issues that need to be dealt with, but for time I have right now I'll just hit a few concerns.

When El Dorado County asserted ownership of the Rubicon as an unmaintained county road, they also assumed responsibility for ensuring it doesn't violate water quality standards or other environmental regulations. Just like any other road in the County.

The State of California provided the County over \$400,000 in grants to develop a Trail Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report that assured the Rubicon Trail would be managed in compliance with environmental regulations.

It was determined at the time that the County couldn't afford to manage the trail. However, the plan also called for user fees, and with over 35,000 users each year it would seem like a no brainer.

While the Rubicon is a county road, the lands surround it are National Forest lands that are being destroyed by off-roaders who refuse to stay on the trail.

A large part of that problem is the use of Modified, non street legal, off road vehicles. These vehicles have to be trailered up to the start of the trail, then, because they're not street legal they have to return by the same route. Since the trail is always crowded the returning vehicles have in essence created another lane, doubling the size and source of erosion.

Traditionally the Rubicon Trail was a one way trip, when you finished at Tahoe you would drive back on the highway.

The county is now asserting it is already planning to do much of what is required in the draft CAO. That being the case, the requirements of the CAO will not be a burden. What it does provide is a timeline and incentive to actually do the work.

I don't want to see the trail closed down but this kind of abuse cannot go on. Implementing the CAO just might prevent that.

Thank you for your time.

Ed Wahl